IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1-7 and 11-14 and AMEND claims 8-10 in accordance with the following:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of designing a semiconductor integrated circuit, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~a)~~ checking each border edge of a block area so as to determine whether a border edge is a first border edge where an external connection terminal is provided or a second border edge where no external connection terminal is provided;

~~b)~~ providing a wiring prohibited area which extends a first distance from the first border edge and in which no wiring line running parallel to the first border edge exists; ~~and~~

~~c)~~ providing a shielding line which is at a second distance from the second border edge and runs parallel to the second border edge;

determining a layout of the block area through floor planning, placement and routing;

extracting resistance and capacitance from the layout, for delay calculation and

layout check, by utilizing the wiring prohibited area for the first border edge and the shielding line for the second border edge; and

completing a layout of the block area through the delay calculation and layout check.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising ~~a step of~~ cutting out a physical block as said block area, said physical block being a layout area divided on a function-by-function basis at a top level in hierarchical layout designing.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said ~~steps a) through c)~~ checking, providing a wiring prohibited area and providing a shielding line are repeated with respect to each wiring layer.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first distance is longer than a minimum wiring distance.

16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second distance is equal to a minimum wiring distance.